

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing paper documents with handwritten notations, comprising:
 - 3 capturing a first image of a first paper document; and
 - 4 detecting whether the first image contains a handwritten
 - 5 notation.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting whether the first image contains handwritten notations comprises using optical character recognition to detect typewritten characters.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 printing the first image only if the first image contains at least
 - 3 one handwritten notation.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising generating location information for the handwritten notation.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising printing the location information.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising storing the location information in a memory.
- 1 7. The method of claim 4, further comprising superimposing a margin mark onto the first image adjacent to the handwritten notation.

- 1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 capturing a second image of a second paper document; and
 - 3 detecting whether the second image contains a handwritten
 - 4 notation.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising comparing the first image
2 to the second image.
- 1 10. The method of claim 8, further generating notation summary
2 information for the first paper document and the second paper document.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting whether the first image
2 contains handwritten notations comprises comparing scanning a first copy of
3 the first image, storing the first copy of the first image in a storage device,
4 scanning a second copy of the first image, and comparing the second copy
5 of the first image to the first copy of the first image.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting whether the first image
2 contains handwritten notations comprises detecting color differences in the
3 first image.
- 1 13. A copying apparatus for documents containing handwritten notations,
2 comprising:
 - 3 a scanner for capturing an image of a first document; and
 - 4 a processor configured to determine whether the image of the
 - 5 first document contains a handwritten notation.
- 1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is configured to
2 perform optical character recognition.

- 1 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is configured to
- 2 superimpose a margin mark adjacent to the handwritten notation.
- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is configured to
- 2 print the first image only if the image contains at least one handwritten
- 3 notation.
- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is configured to
- 2 generate notation summary information for the document.
- 1 18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is configured to
- 2 compare the image of the first document to a previous image of the first
- 3 document.
- 1 19. A photocopier for managing handwritten comments on multiple copies
- 2 of a document, comprising:
 - 3 (a) a scanner for capturing a digital image a page of a document;
 - 4 (b) a programmable processor coupled to the scanner; and
 - 5 (c) a printer coupled to the programmable processor;
 - 6 wherein the programmable processor is programmed to detect
 - 7 handwritten comments on the least one page and to selectively:
 - 8 generate notation summary information for the page based on
 - 9 the detection;
 - 10 superimpose a margin mark adjacent to the handwritten
 - 11 comments; and
 - 12 print the image of the page only if the page includes at least
 - 13 one handwritten comment.

- 1 20. A computer program product, comprising:
 - 2 a program configured to perform a method of managing paper
 - 3 documents with handwritten notations, comprising:
 - 4 (a) capturing a first image of a first paper document; and
 - 5 (b) detecting whether the first image contains a handwritten
 - 6 notation.
 - 7 a signal bearing media bearing the program.